

Board Elections & Changes

Our Executive Board:

President:
Mike Milling

Vice President:
Matt Belcastro

Treasurer:
Steff Zilinski

Secretary:
Abby Belcastro

Sitting Board Members:

Artillery:
Ron Benz
Tim O'Grady

Cavalry:
Hans Arts

Civilians:
Lin Kaufer

HQ:
Brian Egbert

Hospital:
Michelle Catona

Infantry:
Bob Bowell
Ed Bubnick
Amery Vasso
Brian Zilinski
Tom Zilinski

22nd:
Charles Harris

Signal Corps:
Paul Egbert

2021 was an election year for our executive board, and we are sad that Lin Kaufer (see Who's Who for our interview) is stepping down as treasurer after 15 years, but we are very happy to introduce our new treasurer, Steff Zilinski!



While Steff doesn't dress in period, she is an active supporter of both her husband, Brian (Moose), and the whole brigade. She and their daughter, Ainsley, can always be found in the field enjoying our programs, and we're so excited to have her as a member of the executive board.

Steff brings her office-manager expertise to the board, as well as her experience as a virtual administrator. She will be in charge of the Brigade's accounts and the collection of our annual dues.

If you have not yet paid your dues for 2021 (programs are coming, we promise!) you can pay through our paypal link.

Or, you can send a check to:
Steff Poli-Zilinski
741 Limecrest Rd.
Newton, NJ 07860

Finally! Upcoming Programs

As the pandemic wanes and we're able to congregate again, we're getting back in the field this year! We have several (small) upcoming programs that we'd love to see everyone at!

Training Camp

May 15–16

Fosterfields Living Historical Farm

Denville Grave Cleaning Day with Ed. B!

TBA

Denville Cemetery

As you know from our last issue, Ed Bubnick is a passionate grave cleaner and restorer, and he has found several Civil War headstones that need attention in the Denville Cemetery. He will be running a FREE class for all interested brigade members who would like to come out and help him restore these stones. We'll have a picnic lunch in the local park to follow.

Wall Township Living History

Saturday & Sunday, June 26th & 27th

10:00–4:00 PM

Wall Historical Society

The Ladies of Wall will be providing a hot dog and sub sandwich lunch for reenactors, as well as disposable masks and social distancing guidelines for the public.

Randolph July 4th Parade

TBA

Randolph

This will be a PAID event, and we'll have more information on dates and step off times, soon.

Grave Dedication of Garret Bush

TBA

We will be performing a grave dedication for Civil War Private, Garret Bush, in the presence of his descendants. We're looking to do a picnic lunch following the graveside dedication.

Wall Historical Society's Anniversary Celebration

Saturday & Sunday, October 16th & 17th

10:00–4:00 PM

The Ladies of Wall are happy to have our programming to celebrate their historical society's Anniversary weekend. Please make all efforts to participate in this event.



Fast Facts on Harriet Tubman

She was a Union Scout during the Civil War, and the first woman to lead a combat assault.

She helped an estimated 3,000 slaves out of the South.

She cured Union troops of Dysentery while they were stationed in Maryland.

With the help of Col. James Montgomery, she freed 700 slaves at one time during the Combahee Ferry raid in South Carolina.

She promoted women's suffrage alongside Susan B. Anthony.

She founded a home for the aged in Auburn, New York, where she would be taken care of herself.

She was buried with military honors upon her death in 1913.



Looking Forward: Places to Go When Travel is Safe

While we've only been able to travel virtually this past year, I stumbled across two amazing sites to put on the "Visit" list once tourism gets back up and running.

The Harriet Tubman Museum Cape May, NJ



Located on Lafayette St. in Downtown Cape May, the new Harriet Tubman Museum chronicles the life and experience of Tubman while she worked in Cape May in the 1850s.

Tubman was a cook for several of Cape May's local hotels in the decade before the Civil War, earning money to fund her rescue missions into Maryland for the Underground Railroad.

The museum space is a converted parsonage house, formerly used by the Macedonia Baptist Church. In 2018, it was leased to the museum staff for use as dedicated to space to showcase Harriet Tubman's legacy. After two years of restoration and expansion, the museum houses exhibits on primary source documentation of Tubman's life in Cape May, a private collection of African art, as well as slave and abolition artifacts.

While Covid disrupted the museum's planned 2020 opening, the museum was declared 'officially ready' with a ribbon cutting ceremony in September. Staff hope to open it's doors to the public in June of 2021, just in time for beach season!



If you're headed down to Cape May this summer for a little sun and sand, make a stop at this new museum!

Find out more information at: www.harriettubmanmuseum.org or follow them on Facebook: facebook.com/harriettubmanmuseum



National Museum of Civil War Medicine

Frederick & Antietam, Maryland & Washington, DC

The National Museum of Civil War Medicine offers three sites for visitors to learn the different facets of Civil War medical practices: *The National Museum of Civil War Medicine* on 48 East Patrick St., the *Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office Museum* on 437 7th St. in Washington DC, & the *Pry House Field Hospital Museum* in Antietam.

While the main museum offers a vast overview of Civil War surgery and medical experiences through artifacts, exhibits, and guided tours, the Clara Barton Office Museum focuses on Barton's extensive work in creating the "roll of missing men" to help families find the soldiers who'd either died in prison or were buried in mass graves on battlefields across the South. Her work later became intrinsic to creating the Andersonville National Cemetery, bringing closure to thousands of families.



The Pry House Field Hospital is a NPS-owned site on the Antietam Battlefield. Used as General McClellan's headquarters, the Pry House was used as a field hospital HQ during the battle, and the exhibits include a recreated operating theater, medical artifacts, and the history of the Pry Family.

All three sites are currently open by appointment if you'd like to visit them this summer, with information on how to register for walking tours, guided tours, special events, and programs on their website: <https://www.civilwarmed.org/>

If traveling isn't up your alley quite yet, the main museum offers an extensive array of virtual options for exploring their museum collections from virtual tours to an artifact spotlight, to online documentaries and primary source archives to assist in your own research. They also offer a full calendar of virtual lectures and discussions on Facebook Live if you want to tune in.

Check them out at: <https://www.civilwarmed.org>
<https://www.clarabartonmuseum.org/>
<https://www.nps.gov/anti/planyourvisit/pryhouse.htm>

Fast Facts on Clara Barton

Barton received her BA in Education from the College of New York in 1851. By 1854, she had opened a free public school that taught over 600 children.

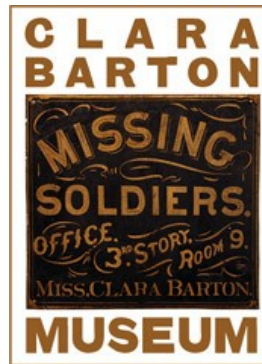
Barton was a recording clerk for the National Patent Office. She lobbied to be paid the same as her male coworkers and won, which upset her boss. He demoted her to a copyist, and later eliminated her department completely, firing her and all the other women she worked with.

Barton had no practical medical or nursing training before she joined the war effort.

Like Tubman, Barton was a strong advocate for women's rights, and went on a lecture tour in 1866 with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton for women's suffrage.

Several times during her work on the battlefields, her clothes were literally blown off by bullet barrages.

In her 80s, Barton assisted Cuban refugees and prisoners during the Spanish-American War.



Clara Barton, c. 1864

Thrifty Ways to Authenticate: Making Your Own Housewife, or Hussif

What is a Housewife?

No, it's not your partner, coming along to take care of your laundry.....



The Housewife, or Hussif, as it was originally called, was a sewing kit used by both women and men in the 18th, 19th, and even early 20th Centuries.

We'd refer to it as a sewing kit, today.

During the Civil War, soldiers' wives or loved ones would make these Hussifs out of scrap fabric and send them to the front to hold extra buttons, lengths of thread, needles, and even small scissors so the soldiers could fix any rips or tears in their uniforms.

Soldiers would also make a Hussif themselves as the army highly encouraged men to pursue needlework during their downtime.

It's compact, rollable form made for easy storage, and they were an invaluable help in the field to mend clothes.



Unlike today's fast-fashion world of throwing a garment away if it's gotten a tear or a hole, during most of the 19th (and even 20th) Century, clothing was repaired as often as possible before the garment was cut up into rags or made into quilts and rugs. This included military uniforms, and men out in the field often found their clothes with broken buttons, bullet holes blown through their trousers, and rips and tears from cutting through the swampy southern underbrush.

Far from home and their mothers or wives to mend these things, soldiers quickly learned to repair holes, stitch hems, and sew buttons with the help of a housewife, or sewing kit.

A great, and easy, authentic piece to add to your collection is to make your own housewife. Even if you've never sewn before, housewives made in camp were very basic, and as long as the fabric stays together, your housewife will look great!

Supplies:

2 cotton rectangles of your desired fabric

2 cotton squares the same width as your rectangles

A length of thick string or ribbon to wrap around the finished product

Needle & thread

Pins

Suggested fabrics:

Reproduction cotton prints

Solid quilter's cotton - fat quarters from Joann's work well for this project

Solid or checked flannel

Step 1:

Decide what size you'd like your housewife to be. Most were between 8–12" in length, and 4–5" in width.

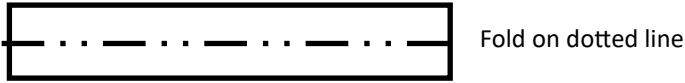
Cut your fabric to this length. You can use a ruler, or a tape measure.

8–12 " x 4–5" , CUT 2

4-5" CUT 2

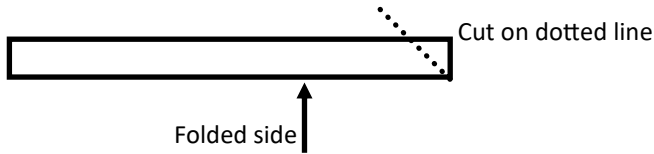
Step 2:

Fold your rectangles in half lengthwise:



Step 3:

Snip the top of your rectangles off at a 45 degree angle to make a point.



Step 4:

Open your new pentagons. This will be the shape of your housewife.



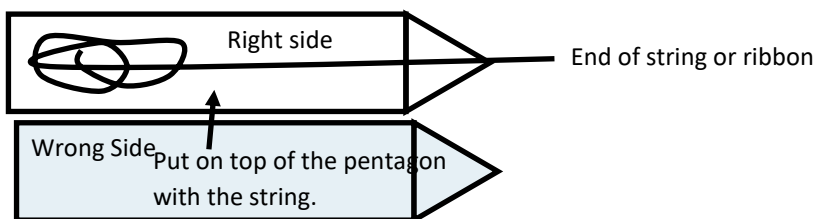
Step 5:

You are ready to sew your first part! *****In sewing, fabric has *right* sides and **wrong** sides. *Right* sides are the fabric you want showing when your piece is finished. **Wrong** sides are in the fabric's interior, where you usually can't see the pattern as clearly. You want this to be inside your project.



Put your string/ribbon inside the pentagons so that it's sandwiched between your fabric. Leave a little tail hanging out the triangular top and pin it to keep it in place.

When it's ready, you should be looking at the **wrong** sides of the fabric.



WWI era Hussif, used by New Zealand Infantry.



Civil War Era Hussifs used by Union infantry

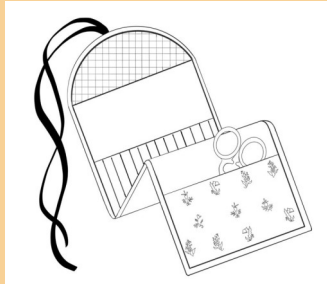


Reproduction Houswives



Feel like you need a Pattern?

Check out WhilloughbyandRose on Etsy for housewife patterns.



Or TheBlackBonnet on Etsy for an authentic Civil War Pattern.



There are also pre-cut kits available:

LongCreekMercantile on Etsy:

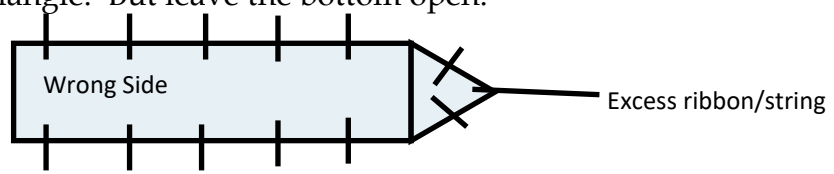


LadyDetalle on Etsy:



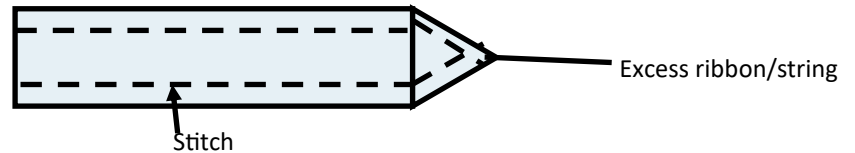
Step 6:

When you've sandwiched your two pieces together, pin the two long sides and the triangle. But leave the bottom open.



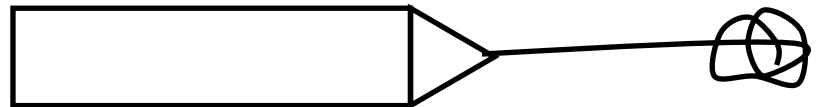
Step 7:

On a sewing machine, or with your needle and thread, sew tight stitches around where you've pinned, about 1/4" from the fabric edge. Double stitch or backstitch over your ribbon/string at the top. Because you'll pull this a lot to tie your housewife, you want to make sure it's extra secure and won't fall off.



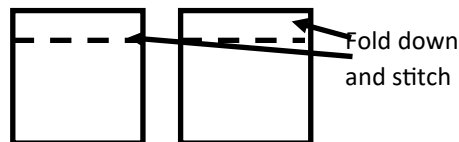
Step 8:

Cut off the excess ribbon/string, and use the opening at the bottom of your housewife to turn the project *right* side out. All your stitches should be on the inside, along with the raw fabric edges, and your string/ribbon should now be on the outside. Press with a hot iron to make it lay flat.



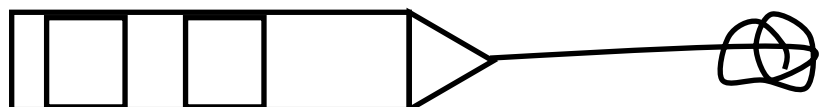
Step 9:

Now we're going to attach the pockets. On each square, fold over about 1/4" on one edge and stitch it down so you have a finished edge. Make sure your finished edge is on the *right* side.



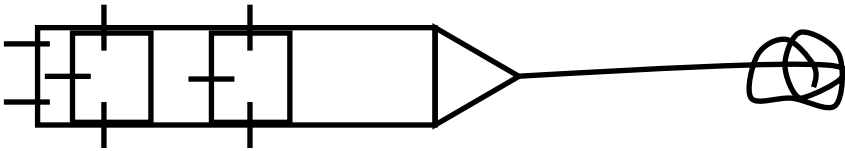
Step 10:

Take each square and place it on your housewife with the stitched ends facing your triangle. You can put them as close together or far apart as you want.



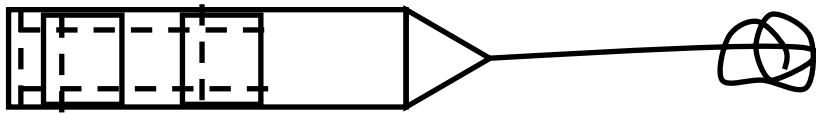
Step 11:

At the bottom of your housewife (the open part), fold those ends in about 1/4" and pin them. Do the same to your squares, folding in the three raw sides and pinning them down. Make sure to leave the top of the squares open since that will be our pocket.



Step 12:

Topstitch about 1/4" with your machine or tight hand-sewn stitches around everywhere you've pinned.



Congratulations!

You have completed your first, authentic housewife!

Fill it with some spare buttons, a few needles and wooden spools of thread for that full authentic look. Then wrap it up and tie the ribbon around your housewife bundle for the next time you lose a button or find that your trouser hem has come loose.



Who's Who?

Showcasing Brigade Members

Lin Kaufer



Waterloo Village, 1993



"Victorian Secret" Fashion Show, 2017

Victorian Manor Christmas Party, 2004



Lin has been part of the 2D Brigade before it was officially called that. As the wife of Lou Kaufer, one of our founding members, and our Infantry captain from 1996 to his passing in 2013, Lin has always been an intrinsic member of our unit, serving on both the regular and executive boards for the past fifteen years, and participating in hundreds of events in her tenure. She has decided to step down from her executive position this year, and I sat down with her to chat about her many years in the brigade.

AB: When did you join the brigade and how did you find us?

LK: I started reenacting with Lou in 1990. When the Brigade was formed in 1996 and Lou was elected Captain of the 7th NJ Infantry that is when my civilian portrayal of a Captain's wife was officially born.

AB: What piqued your interest in the Civil War and how has it impacted the way you view history?

LK: I joined the unit primarily so Lou & I could share his Civil War hobby experiences. However, I started researching and became interested in the civilian clothing of the period and often participated in CW Fashion Shows and presentations in libraries about what is really under that bulky dress. Some of our brigade members still remember me showing up at a library in my underpinnings and having Cindy {Malmo} dress me in all the layers of clothing.

AB: What is the most fascinating thing you have learned being in the unit and why?

LK: That's it's not a unit to me, it's a family! Cindy & I met and became best friends going on 25 years now because both our husbands belonged to the 7th. I remember when some members were just kids and I watched them grow into fine men. When Lou was sick, the members were always there for me and helped out like family.

AB: How long have you been a board member/executive board member and why did you decide to be on the board?

LK: In 2006, the Brigade board was having trouble with the Treasurer position and Lou asked me to step in and help out. And as they say, the rest is history...

AB: Has the treasurer position evolved over your tenure in it? If so, how?

LK: Over the years, there has been more IRS & State government reporting requirements. Also, as the Brigade grew in size and inventory, there were more dues to collect and equipment to keep track of.

AB: What accomplishments are you most proud of in your tenure as a board member (collective or personal)?

For the 15 years that I was Treasurer, the annual audit committee report found no discrepancies in the Treasurer books and I am very proud of that accomplishment.

Also in the 15 years I was on the Board, I believe I only missed one or two Board meetings while Lou was sick in the hospital. If you do the math, that's a little less than 180 Board meetings I attended.

AB: What are your plans now that you're retiring?

LK: The reason I'm retiring as Treasurer is to become the President of the Resident Board of Directors where I currently live. This will take at least 25-30 hours a week of my time and I knew I couldn't do both effectively. However, I'm planning to remain a civilian member of the Brigade and participate in as many events as possible.

AB: What are one or two of your favorite memories from events or being in the field? What happened, and why are they your favorite?

LK: The Fashion Shows at Monroe Village because the spectators were really interested and asked lots of good questions. Also, we had a great group of participants from other civil war units join us providing a wide variety of outfits. And Christmas at Speedwell Village because I love to dance. Also, it was fun teaching the adults & kids who participated and had fun learning the civil war dances.

AB: What are some of your hobbies when you're not doing reenacting?

LK: I love to travel internationally to experience different cultures and see beautiful, historical places. The pandemic has restricted travel plans for 2020 & 2021, but I do have a riverboat trip planned for May 2022 down the Rhine River starting in Switzerland and ending in Amsterdam. When I have some down time at home, I love to read mysteries and romance novels.

AB: Any outgoing advice for the new treasurer?

LK: In my opinion, to be successful, you need to be organized and very detail oriented to keep the documentation required by the various governmental agencies for a non-profit 501c(3) organization. I will always be available to answer any question that comes up or help in anyway.

We thank Lin for her tireless service over the past 15 years as our treasurer, and look forward to many more years in the field with her!



Union League, 2006



Lin's favorite program,
Speedwell Christmas

Allentown, 2017



Members of the Original 7th Found

The Doremus Family
Connection:

Garret Bush



Eva Pierson
(Garret's daughter)



Lloyd Pierson
(Garret's grandson)



Robert Doremus
(Garret's great grand-
son)



A local NJ resident, Robert Doremus, contacted the Brigade to let us know that he is a descendant of one of our original members, Garret Bush, and had some information we might find interesting.

I had happened to find Bush in army records a few years ago, as well as his photo and gravesite, but not much else. He is one of our featured soldiers on the "Original 2D Brigade" page of our website, so to be able to (digitally) meet a direct descendant was a huge honor.

As a reenactor himself, portraying Clark's Battery 1st NJ Light Artillery, Robert was happy to provide us with Garret's story, as well as a colorized photo, digital copy of his discharge papers, and information on Garret's older brother, Elias, who also enlisted in the 7th.

We want to send out a special *thank you* here to the Doremus family for sharing their family history with us, and providing excellent documentation for our website and helping us humanize our past.



Robert & his Battery

Garret & Elias Bush

By Robert Doremus

[Garret's] family lived in Pine Brook and were farmers. Both he and his older brother, Elias, enlisted in the 7th at the beginning of the war. They were both assigned to Company C for a three year enlistment. Elias was seven years older than Garret. The 1850 census lists him as 12 years old and Garret as 5. [But] they did both enlist together and appear on the original muster rolls.

Elias was discharged after about a year for medical disability, on orders from Maj. Gen. McClellan at Budd's Ferry, MD on March 15th, 1862. I never found more about it. He died at a fairly young age on August 5, 1880 and is buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Newark.

I'm afraid I can't add any personal stories about [Elias]. I didn't know he existed until I started looking into Garret's life.

[But] Garret was wounded in the Peach Orchard at Gettysburg. Family oral history says that he was leaning against a tree when a round came in and hit him in the hand. After being wounded at Gettysburg, Garret was transferred to the Veteran's Reserve Corps to serve out the remainder of his enlistment. I heard the story from my grandfather, who was Garrett's grandson.

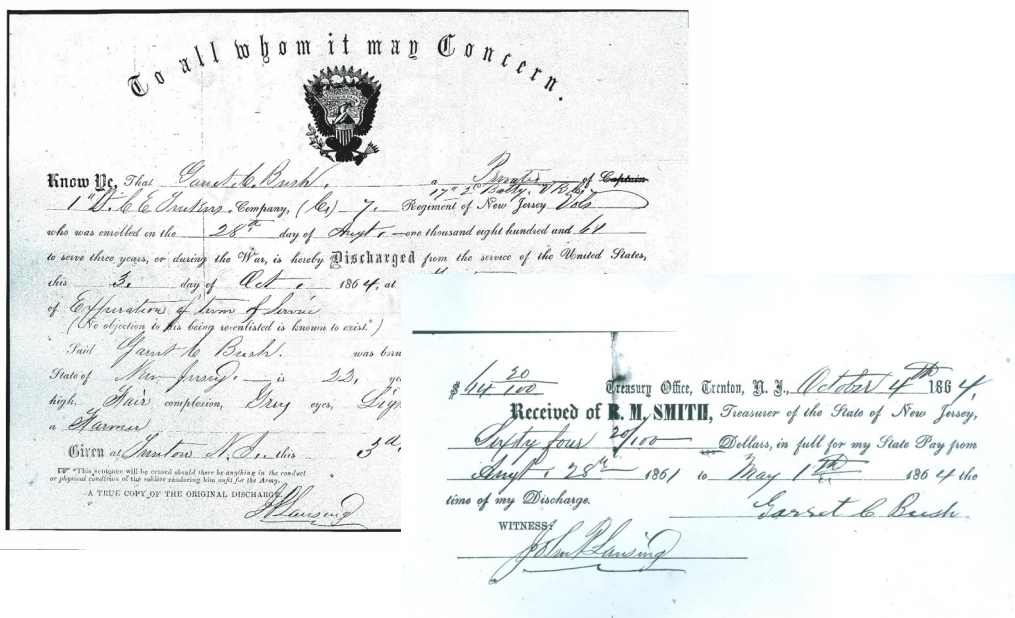


Garret in his uniform, digitally colorized

I have to laugh at the payment [Garret] got from the state of New Jersey upon his discharge: \$64.20! That's not much compensation for the ordeals he went through and the horrors he saw in that war.

Garret's daughter, Eva (my great grandmother), lived in the house next to ours when I was a kid. She used to invite me in on a hot day for a cold glass of orangeade (no doubt fresh squeezed). It's funny how we think of the Civil War as being ancient history, yet I knew the daughter of one of the soldiers.

I found the picture of Garret among a box of family photos in the attic.

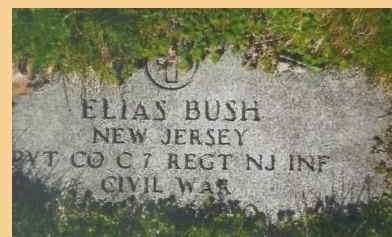


Garret in his later years

Fun Fact:
How much money would Garret's discharge pay be today?

\$1,083.13

Elias' grave in Newark



The 2D Board

Is there something you'd like to bring to the Board's attention? A new idea? A new impression? Something that can make the brigade better?

We'd love to hear what you have to say! Please contact your impression head and ask them to bring your idea to the Board's attention. Or, contact president Mike Milling, and ask if you can make a special presentation to the board at one of our meetings.

COMMITTEES

We have created three new committees as part of our Board this year:

Advertising:

Abby Belcastro
Paul Egbert
Amery Vasso
Brian Zilinski

Recruiting:

Brian Zilinski
Rich Walker
Steff Zilinski
Tim O'Grady

Safety:

Matt Belcastro
Hans Artz
Michelle Catona
Rich Walker

Have ideas for how we can advertise our programming better, recruit more members, or work on our safety? Please contact our committee members with your ideas!

*We Can't Wait
to Be Together Again!*

